

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EA-07 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 DHA-02 AF-08 CU-02 /107 W

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R 041544Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9250

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY CASABLANCA

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 12638

FROM AMBASSADOR LODGE'S OFFICE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, SCUL, MX, VT

SUBJ: INTERFAITH PEACE & RELIGIOUS FREEDOM CONFERENCE

REF: MEXICO 9746; RABAT 4064; TEL AVIV 5189 (NOTAL);

TUNIS 5338 (NOTAL)

1. RABBI HERSHBERG, WHILE IN ROME ENROUTE TO MID-EAST, MET
WITH EMBASSY MINISTER AND ASSISTANT TO AMBASSADOR LODGE JULY 12.

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2. RABBI EXPLAINED THAT HE WAS MAKING TRIP TO EXTEND INVITATIONS

TO VARIOUS SECULAR AND RELIGIOUS LEADERS TO ATTEND WORLD CONFERENCE ON PEACE AND RELIGIOUS FREEDOM TO BE HELD IN MEXICO IN NOVEMBER 1976. HE STATED THAT CONFERENCE HAD PERSONAL BACKING OF MEXICAN PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA. ACCORDINGLY, HE WAS SPECIFICALLY AUTHORIZED BY ECHEVERRIA TO EXTEND INVITATION TO POPE PAUL. TRUE TO IMAGE PORTRAYED IN REFTELS, RABBI INTIMATED THAT HIS WORK ALSO HAD SUPPORT OF SECRETARY KISSINGER AND UNSPECIFIED NUMBER OF WHITE HOUSE STAFF.

3. WHILE IN ROME, RABBI HERSHBERG WAS NOT GRANTED AUDIENCE BY POPE PAUL AND HAD NO MEETINGS AT SECRETARIAT OF STATE. HE WAS, HOWEVER, RECEIVED BY SECRETARY OF VATICAN JUSTICE AND PEACE COMMISSION, MSGR. MONTEZEMOLO. HIGH VATICAN OFFICIAL HAS TOLD US THAT RABBI HERSHBERG WAS NOT GIVEN ANY ENCOURAGEMENT TO EXPECT POPE PAUL'S ATTENDANCE. AS EMBASSY MEXICO PONTS OUT, POPE PAUL RECENTLY DECLINED INVITATION TO VISIT MEXICO TO INAUGURATE NEW BASILICA OF HUADALUPE. VOPL

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